

ESHCR 4408 - S COMM AMD  
By Committee on Ways & Means

ADOPTED 03/11/2008

1 Strike everything beginning with line 1 and insert the following:

2 "WHEREAS, Washington State is an economic leader in a globally  
3 competitive environment where human capital is becoming the prime  
4 currency; and

5 WHEREAS, The legislature wishes to craft a vision for our education  
6 system that truly nurtures and develops each person to realize their  
7 limitless potential; and

8 WHEREAS, Postsecondary education is the crowning jewel in our  
9 state's human capital development plan and it is the legislature's  
10 intent to focus on the long-term goal of providing the necessary levels  
11 of education to our residents required to catapult Washington into  
12 global educational leadership; and

13 WHEREAS, This goal of providing the necessary levels of education  
14 will necessitate development of creative and visionary approaches to  
15 educational reform that include financing and revenue reform and  
16 implementation strategies to overcome the challenges in simultaneously  
17 funding all of the state's legitimate needs; and

18 WHEREAS, The higher education coordinating board is charged under  
19 RCW 28B.76.200 with developing a statewide strategic master plan for  
20 higher education, encompassing all sectors including the two-year  
21 system, workforce training, the four-year institutions of higher  
22 education, and financial aid; and

23 WHEREAS, The legislature enacted chapter 458, Laws of 2007,  
24 requiring the strategic master plan to present a vision, measurable  
25 goals, and priorities spanning a ten-year period of time, with  
26 strategies for expanding access, affordability, quality, efficiency,  
27 and accountability; and

28 WHEREAS, The legislature supports taking the steps needed to  
29 implement this vision of global educational leadership and supports the  
30 incremental steps proposed in the strategic master plan to improve our

1 higher education system so as not to fall behind the rest of the world  
2 as other countries rush to confront the same challenges; and

3 WHEREAS, The legislature supports the short-term goals and policies  
4 embedded in the master plan that would create a higher education system  
5 grounded in equality, access, affordability, and accountability as well  
6 as promote economic growth and innovation; and

7 WHEREAS, The legislature will continue to look at ways to improve  
8 Washington's system of higher education; and

9 WHEREAS, The law provides that the legislature shall by concurrent  
10 resolution approve or recommend changes to the plan, following public  
11 hearings, after which the board shall incorporate legislative changes  
12 and adopt a final plan by June of the year in which the legislature  
13 passes the concurrent resolution; and

14 WHEREAS, The higher education coordinating board, from February  
15 through November 2007, conducted regular public meetings of the board  
16 and the board's advisory council and in fall 2007 organized public  
17 forums and focus group meetings around the state bringing educational,  
18 business, and community leaders together to engage stakeholders and the  
19 public in developing ideas for the strategic master plan; and

20 WHEREAS, The higher education coordinating board received input for  
21 the plan from a wide range of perspectives through presentations  
22 provided by leaders from the legislature, business, public and  
23 independent baccalaureate institutions of higher education, community  
24 and technical colleges, workforce training agencies, the common school  
25 system, and representatives of the governor, students, faculty, and  
26 communities of color, economists, and other experts; and

27 WHEREAS, The final report issued by Washington Learns called for a  
28 world-class, learner-focused seamless educational system from preschool  
29 through higher education and articulated a vision for the improvement  
30 of educational attainment at all levels of educational system in the  
31 state of Washington, a vision that lies at the heart of the proposed  
32 2008 update of the master plan submitted by the higher education  
33 coordinating board; and

34 WHEREAS, The higher education coordinating board finds that while  
35 many of the world's developed nations have made huge gains in the  
36 educational attainment levels of their populations, the United States  
37 has not and Washingtonians aged twenty-five to thirty-four actually are

1 less well-educated than Washingtonians aged forty-five to fifty-four;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Demographic projections indicate the population of  
4 Washington will grow thirty-seven percent by the year 2030 while the  
5 state's population simultaneously becomes much more diverse; and

6 WHEREAS, Over seventy percent of the workforce of the year 2030 is  
7 currently employed, and many will be required to upgrade their skills  
8 to keep up with technological and other workplace changes; and

9 WHEREAS, One out of four people aged eighteen to twenty-four does  
10 not have a high school diploma and Washington's undereducated working  
11 population is equal in size to its next ten high school graduating  
12 classes; and

13 WHEREAS, Global competition, process automation, the increased pace  
14 of technological change, and the progressively shortened life span of  
15 many products has and will continue to result in worker layoffs, and  
16 laid-off workers will need to retool their skills in order to be  
17 reemployed; and

18 WHEREAS, Our growing economy also depends on a skilled workforce  
19 including workers who have completed certificates, associate degrees,  
20 and apprenticeship programs; and

21 WHEREAS, Washington must attract annually to the state over thirty-  
22 six thousand people who hold at least a bachelor's degree in order to  
23 fill the jobs being created by the state's economy, a net in-migration  
24 of highly educated workers second among Washington's Global Challenge  
25 State peers, behind only California, which attracts about thirty-nine  
26 thousand similarly educated people annually; and

27 WHEREAS, Depending on other states and nations to provide  
28 educational attainment levels necessary to fill the best jobs being  
29 created in Washington may not be a sustainable economic strategy and  
30 misses the opportunity to prepare Washington residents for some of the  
31 best jobs being created by Washington's economy; and

32 WHEREAS, The higher education coordinating board recommends  
33 creating opportunities for Washington residents and fueling the growth  
34 of Washington's economy by increasing annual production of certificates  
35 and two-year degrees to an annual total of thirty-six thousand two  
36 hundred by 2018; and

37 WHEREAS, The proposed master plan update recommends raising  
38 educational attainment by addressing diversity, raising expectations in

1 the common school system, promoting lifelong learning and improving  
2 affordable access, and recommends a series of strategies for promoting  
3 economic growth, innovation, and funding for accountability and  
4 results;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the House of Representatives of  
6 the state of Washington, the Senate concurring, That the statewide  
7 strategic master plan update submitted by the higher education  
8 coordinating board on December 15, 2007, be approved, provided that,  
9 during the development of the final plan, the higher education  
10 coordinating board should consider:

11 (1) Refining and prioritizing the proposed bachelor's degree and  
12 graduate degree production targets to base them more specifically upon  
13 the evolving needs of Washington's economy, rather than upon external  
14 benchmarks;

15 (2) Providing programs, degrees, and certificates that use industry  
16 best practices and an outcome-based approach for each academic subject  
17 offered including remedial and adult basic education;

18 (3) Maximizing the use of full-time faculty employment without  
19 hampering the institutions' ability to maintain an adequate level of  
20 flexibility and cost-effectiveness;

21 (4) Creating and maintaining sustainable, efficient, and cost-  
22 effective facilities, technology, and programs that provide enhanced  
23 access and delivery of postsecondary education throughout the state;

24 (5) Maximizing the use of state funding and reviewing the cost of  
25 service delivery including innovative approaches used by other nations  
26 such as review of the time to degree, credit hours required, and other  
27 methods to reduce costs while maintaining quality; and

28 (6) The program capacity at public, independent, and career schools  
29 when determining the public investments that the higher education  
30 coordinating board recommends to be made to the legislature for new  
31 program and facility development to meet the total demand for a skilled  
32 and educated workforce; and

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the higher education coordinating  
34 board shall actively involve public and independent two-year and four-  
35 year institutions of higher education, private vocational schools, the  
36 council of presidents, the independent colleges of Washington, the  
37 state board for community and technical colleges, the workforce  
38 training and education coordinating board, faculty from four-year

1 institutions of higher education and the community and technical  
2 colleges, students, representatives of business and other interested  
3 stakeholders, the office of financial management, the office of the  
4 superintendent of public instruction, teachers and other  
5 representatives of the public school system, and appropriate committees  
6 of the legislature, in collaboratively refining the strategies and  
7 specifying next steps required to implement strategies recommended in  
8 the 2008 update of the master plan; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the higher education coordinating  
10 board shall report to the higher education committees of the House of  
11 Representatives and the Senate on progress implementing the 2008 update  
12 of the master plan by February 1, 2009."

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